

MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING OF THE JUDICIARY & LAW ENFORCEMENT
COMMITTEE AND THE FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

July 16th, 2020

KENOSHA COUNTY JOB CENTER ENTRANCE D

Judiciary & Law

Members Present:

Boyd Frederick, David Celebre, Jeff Wamboldt, Laura Belsky, Mark Nordigian, Sharon Pomaville, Jerry Gulley, YIG Olivia Nahorniak & Gabrielle Wellman (via WebEx)

Finance & Admin

Members Present:

Terry Rose, Jeff Gentz, Ron Frederick, John Franco, Ed Kubicki
Monica Yuhas

Other Supervisors

Present:

Erin Decker, Zach Rodriguez, Gabe Nudo

Others Present:

In Person- Sheriff David Beth, Capt. Justin Miller, Capt. Robert Hallisy
Via WebEx-Clara Tappa, Jasleen Kaur, Jen Kopp, Patty Merrill,
Matthew Leys, Yasmin Ortiz, Barna Bencs

Meeting Called to Order:

6:00 p.m. by Chairman Terry Rose

Citizen Comments:

6:00: **Kevin Mathewson – 3121 72nd Ave Somers** – Came to support resolution to increase transparency within government. Believes this is a good start to hold people accountable.

Kyle- 6208 32nd Ave – Advised he sent emails to County Board Supervisors and only three responded. He supports the resolution to use Body Cams and is asking that this first step be taken by passing the resolution.

Emily F. – 7th District – Believes the resolution will improve civility of police to citizen interaction, provide transparency, and create training opportunities.

Devin Johnson – Expressed that citizens should not have to be in fear while having interactions with the police.

Diamond Hartwell – 3rd District – Supports the resolution as a great first step.

Cory Washington – 6330 Sheridan Rd. – Feels that interactions, where someone's life could be at risk, should be recorded. The resolution will bring more transparency to these interactions and alleviate anxiety.

Citizen 7 – 53144- Described videos on social media where citizens were treated inappropriately. Body cams will do a lot for the community and will be the cause for police to do the right thing.

Brian Little – 5116 Pershing Blvd. – Comes to the committee as a father of biracial children and does not want to worry that his children will be treated differently.

Citizen 8 – Wants everyone to remember Michael Bell and to keep him in mind when deciding on this resolution, feels Body Cams would have made a difference.

Citizen 9 – 53142 – Described how biases are hard to separate from professions and the difficulties of staying impartial. We as a city, the police department and the government need to start holding each other accountable, educating each other, and being aware of our biases. Impartial committees need to be formed to police the police.

Citizens did not sign attendance sheet. At times names were inaudible or not given.

Supervisor Comments: 6:22: None

Chairman Comments: 6:22: None

Resolution from County Board Supervisors Decker, Maurer, Nordigian and Rodriguez:

A Resolution Protecting Law Enforcement Officers While Affecting Community Injustice

Motion by: Nordigian ***Seconded by:*** Franco ***Approved:*** unanimously

6:23: Chairman Rose began discussion of the Resolution with a presentation from Sheriff David Beth. Beth advised that KSD is not opposed to Body Cams, for years it has basically been an issue of cost. Beth stated the current Body Cam technology is better but not perfect and that laws and rules regulating usage have only recently been established. He provided KSD statistics for calls for service and discussed the use of squad cams and microphones. He relayed that 95% of calls take place in front of a squad. Beth then described all military-style vehicles owned by KSD. His description included their purpose and what funds were used for their purchase. Beth also discussed the benefits of having take home squads for the deputies.

Captain Justin Miller presented the estimated cost of Body Cams from two different vendors, Axon and Panasonic. He explained that the process would have to go through Request for Purchase (RFP), which is required for large ticket items. Miller went over the difference in price for each company and what the price includes. Patricia Merrill and Barna Bencs, from the Finance Department, answered questions regarding budget procedures and the current financial situation of Kenosha County. Shawn Smith from IT explained the technology that would be required for Body Cams and data storage.

Clara Tappa, Director of Human Resources, advised that policies already exists regarding misconduct and handling of complaints. Employees can make complaints to any level of management or report them to Human Resources. A Code of Conduct exists requiring employees to conduct themselves in a manner that does not violate law and requires them to remain respectful and professional. The department has policies for Internal Affairs and Anti-Retaliation, both of which guide conduct and response to complaints.

Captain Robert Hallisy discussed procedures included in current policies. He advised that employees due report misconduct and that deputies take oaths to uphold the law. He explained that full shift recordings of video are unheard of. Hallisy stated that numerous staff members would have to take on the task of viewing all video. He explained that the current squad car video policy would be tweaked for body cameras.

Motion to Amend Resolution under first Be It Further Resolved to remove wording “including requiring deputies to record video from the time of roll call to the end of shift

Motion by: Nordigian ***Seconded by:*** Gentz ***Approved:*** unanimously

Motion to Amend Resolution under There Be It Resolved to read, the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors directs the finance department and the sheriff’s department to include body cameras within the 2021 budget;

Motion by: Nordigian ***Seconded by:*** Gentz ***Approved:*** Yes (12 to 1)
Nordigian-Nay

Motion to Amend Resolution to strike fourth Be It Further Resolved pertaining to military-style vehicles

Motion by: R. Frederick ***Seconded by:*** Gentz ***Approved:*** Yes (9 to 4)
Franco, Wamboldt, Celebre, and Nordigian – Nay

Motion to Amend Resolution to strike second Be It Further Resolved pertaining to creation of a policy protecting employees

Motion by: Yuhas ***Seconded by:*** Gentz ***Approved:*** unanimously

Motion to Amend Resolution under third Be It Further Resolved to strike language – including the creation of an independent committee to review complaints and timelines for process;

Motion by: Gentz ***Seconded by:*** R. Frederick ***Approved:*** No (10 to 3)

Gentz, R. Frederick, Kubicki – Aye

Motion to Amend Resolution under third Be It Further Resolved to read, the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors directs the personnel department and Sheriff's Department to create a policy to be approved by the full county board for the independent review by the Civil Service Commission of complaints filed against the Sheriff's Department.

Motion by: Franco

Seconded by: R. Frederick

Withdrawn by: Franco

Any Other Business Allowed by Law: 8:52 None

Meeting Adjourned: 8:53 on motion by Yuhas; seconded by B. Frederick.

A recording of the meeting is available online at kenoshacounty.org

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Hicks".

Michelle Hicks